

over-view of family medicine, and although some of the contributions cover aspects of practice which would be outside the scope of British practitioners, the greater part of its content is fully relevant to those working in this country. It is well laid out and clearly annotated and cross-referenced.

It would certainly provide a useful reference book for any General Practice library.

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Andrews' Diseases of the Skin – Clinical Dermatology, 8th edition, edited by H.L. Arnold, R.B. Odon & W. James. Pp. ix + 1060, illustrated. W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1990. £78.50 hardback.

After an interval of 8 years and an extensive rewrite of the text, the eighth edition of *Andrews'* has appeared. In its single volume containing good quality black and white photographs and up-to-date references, the emphasis is on the clinical manifestations and treatment of dermatological disease rather than the pathogenesis and pathology. There are sections on the structure and function of the skin, morphology of lesions and a further 36 chapters on a variety of cutaneous disorders. The book is intended for medical students, family practitioners

through to dermatologists but it is far too detailed for the average medical student and does not contain sufficient information to act as a single reference source for a dermatologist.

With the rapid expansion in the basic sciences, immunology and therapeutics of dermatological disorders it might be that it is too much for one author to be expected to write or rewrite half the text. Indeed the major criticism of this book is that there is no ordered ranking of treatments for an increasing severity of disease and one might get the impression that systemic retinoids should be prescribed before topical treatment for acne or that peritoneal dialysis is an accepted treatment for psoriasis. Furthermore there is no mention of intravenous prostacyclin or its analogues in the treatment of critical ischaemia in patients with systemic sclerosis nor of pulsed doses of methyl prednisolone or cyclophosphamide in the treatment of recalcitrant rheumatoid vasculitis. An overall formulary might have been a useful addition.

Overall it is an enjoyable book to read and good value for money. However if one has financial constraints on the number of dermatological texts to buy one might consider saving a little longer to purchase one of the more major textbooks available.

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Books Received

Acquired Neurological Speech/Language Disorders in Childhood, edited by Bruce E. Murdoch. Pp. 346. Taylor and Francis, London, New York, Philadelphia, 1990. £19.00 softback, £40.00 cloth.

Blood Pressure Measurement, 2nd edition. Published by the *BMJ*. Video and booklet £24.95. Booklet may be purchased separately £1.25 (UK). £2.25 (abroad).

Cancer: causes, occurrence and control, Editor-in-chief L. Tomatis. Pp. xvi + 350, illustrated. International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, 1990. Softback.

Cancer of the Colon and Rectum, 7th Kings Fund Forum. King's Fund Centre, London, 1990. Price not given.

The Challenges of Medical Practice Variations, edited by Tavs Folmer Andersen & Gavin Mooney. Pp. x + 200. Macmillan Press Scientific & Medical, Basingstoke, 1990. £37.50 hardback, £14.95 paperback.

Cognitive Rehabilitation in Perspective, edited by Rodger L.I. Wood & Ian Fussey. Pp. xiv + 268. Taylor & Francis, London, New York, Philadelphia, 1990. £35.00 cloth, £18.00 paperback.

The Courts and the Doctor, D.J. Gee & J.K. Mason. Pp. xxi + 217. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1990. £14.95 hardback.

Writing S.O.A.P. Notes, G. Kettenbach. Pp. vii + 145. F.A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1990. £10.36 paperback.